



For Immediate Release

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Climate plan highlights best ways to reduce Sonoma County's greenhouse gas emissions

Public Review Draft released for *Climate Action 2020 and Beyond*

SANTA ROSA, CA – Sonoma County communities have a new opportunity to weigh in how they want to reduce greenhouse gases. *Climate Action 2020 and Beyond; A Regional Program for Sonoma County Communities* is a planning effort to organize the efforts already in place to protect our climate as well as set a path for future actions.

The Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority (RCPA) has been working on *Climate Action 2020* with each city and the County, resulting in the release of a Public Review Draft. Sonoma County residents are encouraged to review the Draft Plan and share their feedback:

<http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>

Goal of reducing greenhouse gases 25% below 1990 levels by 2020

The Draft Plan proposes that each local government contribute towards a countywide greenhouse gas reduction target of 25% below 1990 levels by 2020, on a path towards a long term goal of 80% below 1990 levels by 2050.

For 2020, this is achieved through regional and State programs along with local projects. Some local projects, such as more renewable energy through Sonoma Clean Power or energy efficiency programs that save money while upgrading homes, are already underway.

RCPA Chair David Rabbitt said, "Climate Action 2020 started because we are committed to reducing greenhouse gas emissions locally but we are also required to advance the State's greenhouse gas reduction goal. To do that, we needed to develop a plan that was clear about local commitments and brings countywide consistency to the decisions we make about climate change."

Highlights of the plan

- Greenhouse gas emissions have declined since 1990, but without new actions they could climb to new highs by 2020.
- The goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 25% below 1990 levels is possible if we work together.
- The plan is focused on near term actions that will put Sonoma County on a path towards a 2050 goal of 80% below 1990 levels.
- Plan success will require collaboration and investment by government, businesses, and citizens.
- The RCPA will lead plan implementation and support local actions through grant funding, research, technical assistance, outreach, and education.

Everyone benefits from climate action

Cleaner air, new job opportunities, and cost savings on energy are among the many co-benefits from reducing greenhouse gases. The Draft Plan tracks seven categories of co-benefits for each of the measures, which jurisdictions can choose from to meet the overall goal.

Efficient collaboration provides a climate action plan for the whole county

RCPA Vice Chair Carol Russell said, “Staff from the City of Cloverdale are eager to take advantage of streamlined environmental rules for development offered by *Climate Action 2020*. Plus, we wouldn’t have been able to develop a plan of our own without this coordinated effort.”

The project was funded by a grant awarded by the Strategic Growth Council.

The Public Review Draft Plan will be presented in each community in the spring of 2016. Public comments on the plan are welcome and will be collected at these meetings, as well as on the RCPA website. A Final Climate Action Plan will be presented later in 2016 for adoption by each local government. See the Climate Action 2020 website for the latest community meeting dates:

<http://rcpa.ca.gov/projects/climate-action-2020/>

The Sonoma County Regional Climate Protection Authority, RCPA, was formed in 2009 to coordinate countywide climate protection efforts among Sonoma County’s nine cities, the County and multiple agencies. The RCPA fosters collaboration, helps to set goals, pools resources, formalizes partnerships, and works across silos. The RCPA aims to create local solutions to complement State, federal, and private sector actions – all showing that a prosperous future with lower emissions is possible.

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